

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier version and listings.

1. - 17. (canceled).

18. (new): An information processing apparatus capable of communication with an external apparatus connected thereto, comprising:

a USB device controller connectable with the external apparatus for controlling communication between the connected external apparatus and said information processing apparatus;

a USB host controller connectable with the external apparatus for controlling communication between the connected external apparatus and said information processing apparatus;

a connection unit having a plurality of connectors for connecting with the external apparatus; and

a switching unit for switching a controller connected with the external apparatus between said USB device controller and said USB host controller, for communication between the connected external apparatus and said information processing apparatus, wherein said switching unit determines the type of the connected external apparatus and if it is determined that the a plurality of connected external apparatuses include USB device apparatuses and USB host apparatuses, connects the USB device apparatus with the USB host controller and the USB host apparatus with the USB device controller.

19. (new): The information processing apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said connector is an AB type connector in conformity with the Universal Serial Bus communication standards, and wherein if a B type connector is connected with said connection unit, said switching unit determines that the external apparatus is the USB host apparatus.

20. (new): The information processing apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the connector is an AB type connector in conformity with the Universal Serial Bus communication standards, and wherein if an A type connector is connected with said connection unit, said switching unit determines that the external apparatus is said USB device apparatus.

21. (new): The information processing apparatus according to claim 18, further comprising:

a use status determination unit for determining a use status of said USB device controller and said USB host controller; and

a warning unit for giving a warning to an operator of said information processing apparatus, if said use status determination unit determines that said USB device controller or said USB host controller is in use, and the controller, which is selected from said USB device controller and USB host controller in correspondence with the type of the external apparatus determined by said switching unit and is connected with the external apparatus, is in use,

wherein said switching unit does not select said controller in use as said controller connected with the external apparatus.

22. (new): The information processing apparatus according to claim 21, wherein if said use status determination unit determines that said controller in use has become not in use, said switching unit selects said controller that has been in use as said controller connected with the external apparatus.

23. (new): A control method for an information processing apparatus capable of communication with an external apparatus connected thereto, wherein said apparatus comprising a USB device controller connectable with the external apparatus for controlling communication between the connected external apparatus and said information processing apparatus, a USB host controller connectable with the external apparatus for controlling communication between the connected external apparatus and said information processing apparatus, and a connection unit having a plurality of connectors for connecting the external apparatus, said method comprising:

a switching step for switching a controller connected with the external apparatus between the USB device controller and the USB host controller, for communication between the connected external apparatus and the information processing apparatus, for determining the type of the connected external apparatus, and if it is determined that the a plurality of connected external apparatuses include USB device apparatuses and USB host apparatuses, for connecting the USB device apparatus with the USB host controller and the USB host apparatus with the USB device controller;

a device control step for controlling, by a USB device controller, communication between the USB host apparatus and the information processing apparatus; and

a host control step for controlling, by a USB host controller, communication between the USB device apparatus and the information processing apparatus.

24. (new): The control method according to claim 23, wherein the connector is an AB type connector in conformity with the Universal Serial Bus communication standards, and

wherein, if a B type connector is connected with the connection unit, it is determined in said switching step that the external apparatus is the USB host apparatus.

25. (new): The control method according to claim 23, wherein the connector is an AB type connector in conformity with the Universal Serial Bus communication standards, and

wherein, if an A type connector is connected with the connection unit, it is determined in said switching step that the external apparatus is the USB device apparatus.

26. (new): The control method according to claim 23, further comprising:

an execution status determination step for determining an execution status of said device control step and said host control step; and

a warning step for giving a warning to an operator of the information processing apparatus, if it is determined in said execution status determination step that said device control step or said host control step is in execution, and the controller, which is selected in said switching step in correspondence with the type of the external apparatus determined in said switching step and controls communication between the external apparatus and the information processing apparatus, is such a controller that corresponds to the control step in execution,

wherein, in said switching step, the controller corresponding to said control step that is in execution is not selected as the controller for controlling communication between the external apparatus and the information processing apparatus.

27. (new): The control method according to claim 26, wherein, if it is determined in said use status determination step that said control step in execution is no longer in execution, the controller corresponds to said control step that has been in execution is selected in said switching step as the controller for controlling communication between the external apparatus and the information processing apparatus.

28. (new): A computer-readable storage medium storing, in executable form, a control program for information processing apparatus for executing by means of a computer the control method according to claim 23.